

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. For a telecommunication system connecting a plurality of subscriber
2 lines to a telecommunications network, a common element including a data management
3 agent for distributing data from a source location to a set of hardware entities subtended from
4 said common element, said data management agent comprising:

- 5 (a) a transfer agent for retrieving said data from said source location;
6 (b) a buffer pool for storing said data being retrieved; and
7 (c) a plurality of download agents, each for retrieving said data from said
8 buffer pool and transmitting said data being retrieved to a corresponding hardware entity.

1 2. A common element as defined in claim 1, further comprising:
2 a plurality of data management agents, each corresponding to one of a plurality
3 of sets of hardware entities, wherein said data management agent is one of said plurality of
4 data management agents.

1 3. A common element as defined in claim 1, wherein said buffer pool
2 comprises a plurality of buffers.

1 4. A common element as defined in claim 3, wherein a number of said
2 plurality of buffers in said buffer pool is assigned dynamically.

1 5. A common element as defined in claim 3, wherein a size of each of said
2 plurality of buffers in said buffer pool is assigned dynamically.

1 6. A common element as defined in claim 5, wherein said size is
2 determined in accordance with an available memory size and a number of data management
3 agents operating simultaneously.

1 7. A common element as defined in claim 1, wherein said source location
2 is a file server.

1 8. A common element as defined in claim 7, wherein said file server is
2 remotely located.

1 9. A common element as defined in claim 1, wherein said source location
2 is a previously updated hardware entity.

1 10. For a telecommunication system connecting a plurality of subscriber
2 lines to a telecommunications network, a method for distributing data from a source location
3 to a set of hardware entities subtended from a common element, comprising the steps of:

4 (a) retrieving at said common element said data from said source location;
5 (b) storing said data in a buffer pool at said common element; and
6 (c) transmitting, in parallel, said data from said buffer pool to each
7 hardware entity in said set of hardware entities.

1 11. A method as defined in claim 10, further comprising:
2 a plurality of sets of hardware entities, each receiving said data from said
3 source location.

1 12. A method as defined in claim 10, wherein said buffer pool comprises a
2 plurality of buffers.

1 13. A method as defined in claim 12, wherein a number of said plurality of
2 buffers in said buffer pool is assigned dynamically.

1 14. A method as defined in claim 12, wherein a size of each of said
2 plurality of buffers in said buffer pool is assigned dynamically.

1 15. A method as defined in claim 14, wherein said size is determined in
2 accordance with an available memory size and a number of sets of hardware entities operating
3 simultaneously.

1 16. A method as defined in claim 10, wherein said source location is a file
2 server.

1 17. A method as defined in claim 16, wherein said file server is remotely
2 located.

1 18. A method as defined in claim 10, wherein said source location is a
2 previously updated hardware entity.

1 19. For a telecommunication system connecting a plurality of subscriber
2 lines to a telecommunication network, a data carrier embodied in a computer-readable
3 medium, said data carrier including instructions for performing a method for distributing data
4 from a source location to a set of hardware entities subtended from a common element, said
5 data carrier comprising:

6 (a) code for retrieving at said common element said data from said source
7 location;

8 (b) code for storing said data in a buffer pool at said common element; and

9 (c) code for transmitting, in parallel, said data from said buffer pool to
10 each hardware entity in said set of hardware entities.